

Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel

ZeroV

111 Darby Shire Circle
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

MINUTES

Members Present: Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Chair; Commissioner Lesa Dennis, Department for Community Based Services; Senator Danny Carroll, State Senate; Dr. Christina Howard, Child Abuse Pediatrician, University of Kentucky; Judge Libby Messer, Fayette Family Court; Hon. Olivia McCollum, Boone County Assistant Attorney; Jan Bright, State Child Fatality Review Team; Dr. Elizabeth Salt, Citizen Foster Care Review Board; Detective Jason Merlo, Kentucky State Police; Heather McCarty, Regional Program Manager, Family Resource and Youth Service Center; Dr. Jaime Pittenger Kirtley, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky; Nicole Smith Abbott, LCSW; Dr. William Ralston, Chief Office of the Medical Examiner; Steve Shannon, KARP, Inc.; Victoria Bengé, Executive Director, CASA; Dr. Henrietta Bada, Department for Public Health; and Olivia Spradlin, ZeroV.

Welcome and Introductions

Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Chair

Chair Harrison welcomed everyone to the March panel meeting and thanked everyone for joining in-person and those joining virtually. He encouraged everyone who could not attend in-person for today's meeting to join us in June for our next in-person meeting.

First on the agenda is to approve the Minutes and Case Review Summaries from the February panel meeting. Steve Shannon made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Victoria Bengé. Hearing no objections, those are approved as submitted. I'll turn it over to Elisha to give us a brief financial update.

Financial Update

Elisha Mahoney

Everyone should have a copy of the financial report in your binders. For those not with us in person, for SFY25 the panel was allocated \$590,300.00 and the remaining budget is \$262,672.95. The only other budgetary piece to discuss is the new case management system. As you know the panel was allocated \$200,000 from the General Assembly and we were awarded an additional \$175,000 from the COT Legacy funds. To date we have expended approximately \$50,000. I have a meeting with COT later this week to finalize the data tool updates. Does anyone have any questions regarding the budget?

Chair Harrison, seeing none, I'm going to turn it over to Jan Bright to share some news with the meeting.

Jan Bright – The Department for Public Health has been working on reducing the scope of some managers with way too many programs. For example, I have seventeen programs and five federal grants under my purview. That workload made it difficult to stay on top things in a timely manner. Therefore,

they've cut the branch in half. So, Matt Belcher will be attending the next meeting as my replacement in this role. His role will include the Adolescent Health program, Pediatric program, Child Fatality and Prevention and the local health departments Title V block grant. I will be moving strictly to clinical.

Chair Harrison – We greatly appreciate your service here on the panel and everything you've done. We look forward to working with Matt Belcher. I did want to give Sen. Carroll the opportunity if there's anything he'd like to share with panel about this previous session.

Sen. Carroll – Is there anything that you all were following that you have any specific questions about? I just received the complete list yesterday. The most difficult piece was the DJJ bill, which I'm sure you all heard about, and we did everything in our power to get that implemented. We've got two days, and we will see what happens with it.

Chair Harrison- We appreciate your effort and persistence. Before we begin the case reviews, Elisha has a quick update on a pending case.

Pending Cases:

NF-054-24-C – Medical neglect was identified as an issue by PPS and will be included in the data tool.

Case Reviews:

The following cases were reviewed by the Panel. A case summary of findings and recommendations are attached and made a part of these minutes.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Case #</u>	<u>Analyst</u>
1	F-012-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	F-027-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
3	NF-022-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	NF-026-24-NC	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	F-026-24-C	Jennifer Burke
3	NF-009-24-C	Jennifer Burke
2	F-025-24-C	Jennifer Burke
1	NF-036-24-C	Jennifer Burke
1	F-020/021-24-C	Cindy Curtsinger
2	NF-034-24-C	Cindy Curtsinger
3	F-013-24-NC	Cindy Curtsinger
4	F-028-24-NC	Cindy Curtsinger
3	F-043-24-NC	Cynthia Hildebrandt
2	NF-040-24-NC	Cynthia Hildebrandt
1	NF-027-24-C	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	F-011-24-C	Jennifer Burke
3	F-018-24-C	Jennifer Burke
2	NF-001-24-C	Jennifer Burke
3	NF-048-24-NC	Cynthia Hildebrandt
4	NF-003-24-C	Jennifer Burke

Additional Discussion:

Social work staff may need additional education on the difference between a Babygram and a full Skeletal survey. A Babygram, routinely used in rural hospital settings, is basically one picture from overhead down onto the head. A skeletal survey will have over twenty images from different angles that will present a more complete understanding of injuries.

Regarding the lack of documentation that the current DCBS worker was not notified of a referral that does not meet acceptance criteria, those are emailed to the supervisor of that case, but they do not show up in our case management tracking. DCBS is working on a system where those will be captured, and the panel will be able to see it. Therefore, it is happening, it's just not clearly captured in the system, but they are working on enhancing their system.

Sen. Carroll requested everyone be cognizant about issues that are repeatedly addressed during these reviews. Every case will be different, and we don't want to change a law based on one particular case but there are patterns that come up that perhaps we need to look at some policy changes within statute. We really want these reviews to be meaningful. When you all have issues, don't hesitate to bring them forward. Sadly, I can't attend every meeting but please let me know if there is an issue you think we can help you facilitate.

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Bada and seconded by Commissioner Dennis.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting Tuesday, April 15th at 1:00 p.m.